



LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Celebrating 25 Years of Advocacy & Achievement

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Rev. Cecil L. Murray
Tina Pedersen, LCSW
Sandra Rudnick
Adelina Sorkin, LCSW/ACSW
Martha Trevino Powell
Dr. Harriette F. Williams

APPROVED MINUTES

The General Meeting of the Commission for Children and Families was held on Monday, **November 2, 2009**, in Room 739 of the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles. **Please note that these minutes are intended as a summary and not as a verbatim accounting or transcription of events at this meeting.**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT (Quorum Established)

Patricia Curry	Tina Pedersen, LCSW
Ann Franzen	Martha Trevino Powell
Susan F. Friedman	Sandra Rudnick
Helen A. Kleinberg	Stacey Savelle
Dr. La-Doris McClaney	Adelina Sorkin, LCSW/ACSW
Steven M. Olivas, Esq.	Dr. Harriette F. Williams

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT (Excused/Unexcused)

Carol O. Biondi	Rev. Cecil L. Murray
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I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Curry at 10:05 a.m.

II. INTRODUCTIONS

Self introductions were made.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Curry announced that the DCFS Strategic Planning Presentation (Under Item No. IV) by Ms. Lisa Parrish will be presented before the Child Wellness Presentation.

Action Taken:

On motion of Commissioner McClaney, seconded by Commissioner Franzen, the Agenda for November 2, 2009, was unanimously approved.

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IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- **October 5, 2009**

Commissioner Kleinberg requested the following amendments to the October 5, 2009, minutes:

Page 5, Under Relative Caregivers Committee Report

- *Kinship Care, a Priority for the Commission.* Kinship Care is a priority for the Commission. In a discussion with Maryam Fatemi, she commented that relative care is priority for DCFS' Executive team. Ms. Fatemi recommends that KinGap be discussed with the CEO. ~~Commissioner Williams reported that a meeting with Jackie White is scheduled for October 23, 2009.~~ Commissioner Williams thanked Director Ploehn for reinstating Relative Care training within DCFS groups and the Academy.
- *Faith-Based Kinship Centers.* There is a need for Faith-Based Kinship Centers, and centers are currently being planned.
- *Action Taken*
Commissioner Williams' verbal report was received and filed. **Commissioner Williams reported that a meeting with Jackie White is scheduled for October 23, 2009.**

Page 6, Under Commission Election of Officers for 2009-2010

- ***Commission Election of Officers for 2009-2010***

Commissioner Trevino Powell announced that Vice Chair Curry was unanimously elected for the position of Chair ~~with 11 votes~~. Commissioners, Steven Olivas, Stacey Savelle and Susan Friedman ~~received 11 votes, and Commissioner Susan Friedman received 10 votes; Commissioners~~ were **unanimously** elected to the positions of Vice Chairs.

Page 8 and 9, Under Presentation – Emergency Response Training Academy

Commissioner Kleinberg commented on ~~Judge Nash's decision to eliminate squad car use on campus by stating~~ **the use of squad cars on school campus, and stated** that it discourages girls, in particular, from reporting sexual abuse cases because police presence attracts too much attention. She suggested more education and training to address this issue.

...

Commissioner Kleinberg recommended that CSWs include common-law husbands (aka "boyfriends") in the investigation process, since often time they are not procedurally questioned. Mr. Marts assured her that all **individuals involved residents in the home** will be interviewed in the investigation and this recommendation will be added to the training module.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (Cont.)

Action Taken

By Common Consent Mr. Marts' report was received and filed. **Commissioner Kleinberg recommended that Children's Social Workers include common-law husbands (aka "boyfriends") in investigation processes; Mr. Marts confirmed that this recommendation will be incorporated to the ER training module.**

Action Taken:

On motion of Commissioner Kleinberg, seconded by Vice Chair Friedman, the minutes for October 5, 2009, were unanimously approved as amended.

V. CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Curry thanked Commissioner McClaney for generously hosting the October 19, 2009, retreat at her home, and thanked her on behalf of the Commission for her kind hospitality.

She further added the following:

- The Annual Holiday Party will follow the meeting scheduled on December 7, 2009. It will be the last meeting of the year, as the meeting scheduled for December 21, 2009, has been cancelled.
- The Casey Foundation hosted a reception on October 30, 2009. The Foundation invited members of the community which provided a forum for discussion on future projects and gave the community an opportunity to become acquainted with agencies. DCFS Director Trish Ploehn attended this event.

Director Ploehn added that there were various members of the legislature in attendance, and that one in particular expressed an interest in conducting a press conference in January 2010 to raise awareness to community members about providing support for Transition Age Youth. Director Ploehn offered assistance in promoting the press conference. Chair Curry noted that the timing is auspicious as January is National Mentoring Month.

- The Commission's 2008-09 Annual Report is nearing completion and will be ready for review and approval at the November 16, 2009, Commission meeting.
- An Ad Hoc Committee was formed to oversee matters relating to Board motions over the last year regarding electronic record-keeping. Chair Curry attended a meeting with Jackie White, DCEO, and Richard Sanchez, CIO, and discussed the following:
 - How to pull different child centered information sharing projects together into one project instead of handling them individually.

- A memo from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), dated 10-years ago, regarding information sharing through CSW/CMS was discussed, and they agreed to work on trying to get HHS to rescind their decision.

VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS/PRESENTATIONS

- **DCFS Strategic Planning – Lisa Parrish, DCFS**

Ms. Lisa Parrish, DCFS, Deputy Director, distributed documents regarding the Los Angeles County Child Welfare Implementation Project ([copies on file](#)), responded to questions posed by the Commission, and discussed how they will hold meetings to gain input from stakeholders in the Strategic Plan that will be rolled out by summer 2010. Ms. Parrish agreed to return to the Commission to make a presentation on the Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan will be called the Emerging Shared Practice Model and will be a key point to the five-year Demonstration Project.

Action Taken:

Ms. Lisa Parrish, DCFS, Deputy Director's verbal report was received and filed.

The Commission recommended that:

- DCFS review previous reports and recommendations for use on the new Strategic Plan, and that an Action Plan be developed.
 - The new Strategic Plan should recognize the different kinds of youth populations, including but not limited to very young children, TAY, Cross Over youth, etc., rather than grouping every population in one category.
 - Review what has been learned from various prior studies such as the re-entry study, prevention, emergency response as well as the education component.
 - Be sure to include all appropriate public and private partners including the Probation Department in the development of the Strategic Plan.
 - Ensure the Strategic Plan includes action steps, an implementation plan, benchmarks, timelines and targets to identify whether Strategic Plan goals have been met.
- **Child Wellness – Tina Pedersen, Adelina Sorkin, Brian Mahan, CEO – Children's & Family Well Being Cluster**

Commissioners Sorkin, Pederson and Brian Mahan reported on the status of the Los Angeles County Child Wellness Policy. [Copies](#) of the draft policy were distributed and are on file.

VII. DISCUSSION ITEMS/PRESENTATIONS (Cont.)

Commissioner Sorkin reported that The California Endowment will conduct a seminar on November 17, 2009 called “Greening the Food Desert.”

Action Taken:

By Common Consent, the Commission approved the draft LA County child Wellness Policy as to form pending further revisions from the CEO; the final Policy will be brought back at the November 16, 2009, meeting.

The Commission recommended that Caregivers and Social Workers be trained on the policy so that a stronger approach to fitness and nutrition is taken, and that the CEO and County Departments oversee the implementation of the new policy to ensure that contract compliance follows wellness guidelines. The Commission will draft a letter to the Board of Supervisors with recommendations and in support of the Policy.

VIII. DIRECTOR’S REPORT

DCFS Director Trish Ploehn presented a report and responded to questions on DCFS restructuring efforts, including fully staffing the new “Red Team” which was approved by the Board for the purpose of providing 24/7 coverage 365 days/year to respond to critical incidents. Secondary role is to identify areas within DCFS that require immediate reviews/assessments.

Action Taken:

Director Ploehn’s verbal report was received and filed.

The Commission requested DCFS provide the Commission with a list of issues the “Red Team” will be reviewing. The Commission also recommended that the Red Team interface with Children Social Workers to address education issues for youth to ensure they are ready for Emancipation.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public speakers.

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Curry reminded Commission members to begin scheduling joint sub-committee meetings, as previously discussed at the retreat.

Commissioner Sorkin attended the ICAN Child Abuse Conference on October 21, 2009, where a productive discussion was held regarding “Sharing Information in the Context of Child Abuse.”

Commissioner Franzen extended an invitation to the First Parent Celebration lunch on November 7, 2009, at the Parkcrest Church in Lakewood. This event is sponsored by DCFS and “Parents In Partnership.”

Commissioner Kleinberg announced that she plans to attend the New Beginnings Conference on November 3, 2009.

X. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Curry at 11:40 a.m.